

February 24, 2009

**Testimony on behalf of Committee Bill No. 360,  
An Act Concerning Employment of Individuals  
with Autism**

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**This legislation will benefit the autism community and the Connecticut taxpayer as well for the reasons listed below:**

**I. For the Autism community**

**1. Increase employment opportunities**

**1. Less than 15% of those with Autistic Spectrum disorders are appropriately employed**

- a. By appropriately employed I mean the individual has a job that he or she has the qualifications and training for.**
- b. Individuals with Autistic spectrum disorders, particularly Aspergers Syndrome are of above average intelligence but are very concrete, experience difficulty in discerning subtlety and nuance, and are extremely, almost excessively honest.**
- c. Because of the characteristics above and the fact that they often speak in a monotone they have difficulty with interviews.**

**II. A. Increase independent living**

- 1. By entering the ranks of the employed those with Autism will be able to have a better standard of living**
- 2. Opportunity to contribute to their respective communities**

**III. Benefits for the State of Connecticut**

- A. Employers need an incentive to hire individuals with Autism because these individuals, as a consequence of their disability, do not interview well.**
- B. By enabling members of the Autistic community to achieve employment the state will receive a return on its investment in training.**

- C. Employment will change a consumer of state services to a contributor to state coffers.**
- 1. By paying taxes to the state**
  - 2. By needing fewer services from the state, ex, job developers, assistance with preparation of resumes, interviewing. Those services are continued until the consumer finds employment.**
  - 3. More possibilities for advancement once the employer gets “to know” the Autistic employee for his abilities not his disability.**